From Walls to Memories: Growing Up in a Rental House and the Tapestry of Experiences.

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January 3, 2022

How to Make a House Feel Like Home:

Despite the simplicity of the living arrangements, my family found contentment and happiness in that modest home. Getting me to eat was a constant challenge, and my father would often struggle to feed me, particularly during our nighttime routine. In the entire compound, there was just one light bulb that attracted insects, creating a dimly lit environment. My father would use this light to feed me and show me various things🥰. Back in those days, children weren't easily distracted by televisions or cell phones, allowing for more focused interaction and engagement with the world around us.

Finding Comfort in an Unfamiliar Place:

We decided to move to a different rental home that was farther away from my parents' workplace but closer to my play school.

After I was born, my family and I returned to my father's hometown, where he worked. We lived in a small rented house that consisted of a single room with an attached kitchen and a small grounded sink, which served both for washing dishes and taking baths. There

were also other bachelors residing in the same building, along with our neighbors and family friends who lived in the surrounding compound.

The residents of our new rental home were kind but not friendly, and the atmosphere was peaceful and quiet. Unlike our previous residence, which had frequent visitors due to its unkempt condition, this new place offered a more tranquil environment. However, our stay in this modest home was relatively short, lasting only three months. We never developed an emotional attachment to the location, so we made the decision to move again. This time, we found another rental home that was in close proximity to our previous one. It was a small two-floor apartment, and being surrounded by familiar faces helped us feel more at ease, especially since we occupied the ground-floor unit.

The Struggles and Joys of Growing Up in a Rental House:

Living in a rental home had its ups and downs. On one hand, there were certain restrictions imposed on us, such as parking regulations, rent payments, and utility usage. These limitations sometimes made the experience uncomfortable. However, there were

also advantages to living in a rental home, particularly when it came to socializing with neighbors. In a rental community, it was easier to interact and connect with others compared to living in a single-family residence.

One of the remarkable aspects of residing in a rental apartment was the opportunity to share the space with a diverse group of individuals. People from various backgrounds, languages, and locations would come together in the same building. This diversity brought about a sense of excitement and security. The ability to interact with and learn from individuals who were different from them was something they cherished, and it added richness to their living experience.

“You can rent a house, but you can only own a home…”